New Housing policy

3146. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently decided to announce a new housing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the problem of houses is increasing and now it has become beyond the reach of common man to purchase house; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to make buying houses more affordable?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy (NUHHP) announced in 2007 aims at promotion of sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensure equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society. Given the magnitude of the housing shortage and budgetary constraints of both the Central and State Governments, the Policy seeks to associate multiple stakeholders, the Private Sector, the Cooperative Sector, the Industrial Sector and the Services/Institutional Sector for realizing the goal of "Affordable Housing for All".

(c) and (d) 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to provide for adequate Shelter at affordable cost. However, the Union Government has formulated the first urban area focused National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 to set in motion a process in providing 'Affordable Housing for All' particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

Apart from this, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched by the Government in the year 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in 65 specified cities under the Sub Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). A total of 462 projects under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and 842 projects under Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) have been approved all over the country so far envisaging construction/upgradation of 995183 and 464089 dwelling units respectively.

A new scheme - Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) has been launched for providing interest subsidy on housing urban poor to make the housing affordable and within the repaying capacity of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/ Low Income Group (LIG).

The scheme encourages poor sections to avail of loan facilities through Commercial Banks/Housing Finance Companies for the purposes of construction/acquisition of houses and avail 5% subsidy in interest payment for loans upto Rs. 1 lakh.

Further, with a view to encourage allotment of land for EWS, under the newly launched Scheme of 'Affordable Housing in Partnership', Central Government assistance will be provided on a progressive scale vis-a-vis built up area earmarked for EWS/LIG as a percentage of total constructed area. The assistance would be available for the provision of civic services such as water supply including ground level/overhead service reservoirs, storm water drainage, solid waste management, sewerage including common sewerage treatment facilities, rain water harvesting, approach roads, electricity lines etc.

Attitude of Indian embassies/consulates

3147. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any complaints from the Overseas Indians of non-co-operation, rude behaviour and callous attitude on the part of Indian Embassies/Consulates; and

(b) if so, the action the Ministry has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Complaints are received occasionally against Indian Missions and Posts. They are generally in the nature of complaints regarding non-accessibility of the staff, non-responsiveness or discourteous behaviour. As and when such complaints are received they are brought to the notice of the Heads of Missions for necessary corrective action.

Job losses in Dubai

3148. DR. BARUN MUKHERJI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable number of Indians working in Dubai are recently being summarily dismissed from their jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons and the number of Indians who have so far lost their jobs; and

(c) the steps Government of India contemplates to take to ensure adequate compensation to them by their employers and their rehabilitation in India?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Unemployment due to Dubai economic crisis

†3149. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.